

CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCALL
V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

A.C.N. Gully, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

Health Visitor

Miss M. Hoskins, H.V., S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Nurses

Miss G. Johnston, S.R.N.
Miss J. Robjohn, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Left to take H.V. course,
September, 1969).
Mrs. M. Rothwell, S.R.N. (Left to take H.V. Course, September,
1969).
Miss J.R. Brennann (From October, 1969).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

and

HOUSING COMMITTEE

The whole Council

Health Department,
16, Church Street,
Crewkerne.
Somerset.

Telephone No. Crewkerne 3419.



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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1969.

Although little infectious disease occurred there was a severe influenza epidemic in December and a large percentage of the residents were affected. The calls for medical attention were overwhelming but our doctors dealt with the additional work smoothly and well.

Mr. F.H.N. Pinney, a Councillor for twenty years and Chairman for seven, died in December. He was interested in every aspect of the Council's work and Crewkerne benefitted from his inspiring work spread over many years.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The estimated population remained unchanged at 5,060, which gives a density of 3.9 per acre. The rateable value was £188,405 and the product of a penny rate was £745.

Birth Rate The corrected Birth Rate was 17.7 per thousand, as compared with the national figure of 16.3. There was one illegitimate male birth.

Death Rate The corrected Death Rate was 9.5; the comparable figure for England and Wales was 11.9. Out of a total of 47 deaths, 17 were due to heart disease, 16 of these equally divided between males and females, being due to coronary heart disease. There were 8 cases of death due to respiratory disease, six of these were pneumonia.

Appendix A, Table 3 shows full details of causes of death.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Stillbirths There were no stillbirths in 1969.

Infant Mortality I am pleased to report that there were no infant deaths.

Social Habits There was little change in the social patterns but the general increase in the cost of living was felt by all and hardest by the elderly and those on fixed pensions.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The local health services provided by the County Council continued with little change.

The child welfare clinic continued to be held twice a month and a further session was held once a month for immunological procedures.

I carried out an annual inspection in all the schools and the details are shown in Appendix B, Table 2.

During the school medical inspections I frequently saw overweight children. Whenever a parent accompanied the child I explained the need to learn sensible food habits. A fat child means a fat adult eventually and allowing a child to become fat is a cruel kindness. Not only is the child being condemned to a life of social isolation as a "fatty" but also is shortening its expectation of life.

The Speech Therapy and Orthopaedic Clinics continued unchanged.

Early in the year approaches were made to the County Council and Urban District Council to assist in the installation of a home dialyser for a resident who had to attend hospital twice a week at Exeter for treatment. The patient was allocated a new house which had an additional room in which the unit was installed. Alterations to the drainage and water supply were carried out and the patient was able to start using the kidney machine in February. This was the first home unit in Somerset. A second was installed in a private house in the town in November.

The School Dentist transferred to another part of the County in October and no replacement had been found for him by the end of the year.

Following an approach from the Red Cross Society a Medical Loan Centre was established in the Clinic and is very conveniently placed for most people.

A Swimming Club for handicapped people, centred on the Yeovil Baths, commenced operation in January, 1969. A number of children from Crewkerne attend and were transported every Saturday morning in the Welfare minibus. The Council gave financial support to the Club and I am most grateful to them for their generous help and to the Minibus Committee for their co-operation.

Ramus House, one of the Somerset County Council's welfare homes, is run on community lines with general sitting and dining rooms. There are single rooms and double rooms for married couples. There is accommodation for twenty-nine residents. Ramus House always has its full complement and there is a waiting list. Day care can be arranged for an elderly person who lives at home but whose relatives need a break from constant attendance. This service is much appreciated. The residents are encouraged to take an interest in the running of the home and, with the help of the League of Friends, co-operate in organising Sales of work, Coffee Mornings and evening entertainments.

SECTION C

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

The only infectious diseases notified during the year were twenty cases of measles. An increasing number of Crewkerne children are being protected against this illness.

Once again enteritis was present at the Infants School and I carried out a fairly extensive investigation. However, the Public Health Laboratory, who examined various specimens submitted to them, failed to identify the causative agent.

During the Autumn of 1968 an epidemic of Influenza was expected to spread westward from Hong Kong. Vaccine manufacturers worked non-stop to produce the vaccine. The Press gave wide publicity to the threatened epidemic - and then nothing. The outbreak simply did not happen or was so mild as to be negligible. The unfortunate consequence was to foster an attitude of unconcern about "Mao Flu". When the real epidemic struck in December, 1969, the Country was largely unprepared.

During the previous winter there was considerable demand for vaccine which was rationed and used exclusively for susceptible persons. During the Autumn of 1969 the demand was not repeated. The first cases occurred in early December and increased rapidly. By the end of the month Influenza was wide-spread throughout the country. Crewkerne did not escape. There were so many calls for medical treatment I agreed to the general practitioners issuing a first medical certificate without a visit but subsequent certificates were only issued after the patient had been seen. There was one death due directly to Influenza.

I carried out my B.C.G. programme against tuberculosis in the Spring. Children born in 1958 were those offered vaccination. I vaccinated 80 at the Secondary Modern School and 21 at the Grammar School.

There was no visit of the Mass X-Ray Unit to the town during the year, and, following a change of policy nationally, regular visits will no longer be carried out unless there is a special necessity.

Home Safety The Public Health Committee continued to take an active interest in accident prevention and were particularly concerned with the resale of second hand electrical apparatus, the new wiring colour code and the effect of defective wiring in older houses. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions In 1969 the weather was generally mild with no extreme of temperature. There were good sunny periods during the summer and no severe rain which caused flooding in the previous year.

Water Supply The water supply from the Wessex Water Board was generally satisfactory in quality and quantity. They examined the water regularly up until July and all eight samples were satisfactory. They ceased sampling for the remainder of the year. However, we carried out our own sampling and nineteen samples were satisfactory; three were not and these were caused by poor hygiene in a works canteen and a private kitchen. Following advice the standard improved and subsequent sampling showed the supply to be satisfactory. There was occasional discolouration of water in the mains in the South Street area of the Town due to surging in the pipes.

The Council considered the question of fluoridation and, as a result, asked both the County Council and the Wessex Water Board to fluoride the water in accordance with the standards laid down by the Government Memorandum. The County Council decided to take no action in the matter and the Wessex Water Board took no action either.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Routine sampling of the effluent at the Eastern and Northern Outfall Works was carried out during the year. Suspended solids were frequently in excess of the standard laid down for the Eastern Outfall Works due to the excess of sewage entering them. The Northern Outfall effluent was satisfactory on every occasion. In March the Council considered a request from the Chard Rural District Council to combine with them in an extension of the Merriott Sewage Works. This was agreed in principle and the result of further consultations with the Ministry awaited.

Public Cleansing The Council continued their regular weekly collection of refuse. Partial incineration is carried out at the Tip. The standard of control at the Tip is very satisfactory and I was impressed with the work being done there when I visited.

Public Conveniences The Conveniences in Church Street and West Street continue to be well maintained. Extensive work was done to the toilet facilities at the Victoria Hall and the result was very satisfactory.

Rodent Control One part-time rodent operator continued to be employed. He carried out the usual test baiting of Council property and sewers and dealt with several private complaints. No heavy infestations occurred during 1969.

Swimming Baths Three schools in the town have swimming baths. All use mains water and chlorinate in a satisfactory manner.

Nuisances The few complaints of nuisance reported to the Public Health Department were promptly dealt with by the Inspector and generally satisfactory result ensued.

B. Factories Act

Details of the inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector are shown in Appendix D, Table 1.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Routine inspections were carried out at a number of the 84 registered premises and only informal action was necessary to achieve a satisfactory standard.

D. Housing

The Council did not build any houses during 1969 and private builders only completed four. As a result there was a slight rise in the number of

outstanding applications, the main category being for old peoples' dwellings. In addition there were seven urgent cases.

The Council continued to deal sympathetically with all applications for Grants, both Standard and Discretionary. There is no doubt that this legislation is improving the standard of housing in the town.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Routine sampling of milk is carried out by the County Council Health Department and reports on unsatisfactory samples are generally dealt with by the County Dairy Husbandry Adviser.

On two occasions I received reports of Salmonella organisms being isolated from samples taken on farms in the district. In both cases the farm milk was sent for heat treatment as a routine and no local distribution carried out. The farmer in each case was notified of the necessary precautions.

Ice Cream Thirteen premises are registered for the retail of ice cream. Fifteen samples were submitted to the Laboratory during the year and all were placed in provisional Grade 1. There are now two Cash and Carry businesses in the town, both concerned with the sale of Ice Cream to retailers in circumstances which make it impossible for the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations to be complied with. The Public Health Inspector contacted both firms and the Ice Cream manufacturer to ensure the best compliance with the Regulations that could be achieved.

Meat There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the town and no routine meat inspection is carried out.

Food Hygiene Regulations As a result of routine inspection of registered food premises, the Public Health Committee decided to take action against two premises where the Food Hygiene Regulations were not being complied with. Eventually the desired improvements were effected without Court action.

APPENDIX A TABLE 1

Registrar General's estimate of population mid-1969			5,060
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1969 according to the Rate Book	...	...	1,803
Rateable Value	...	...	£188,405
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£745
Area	...	...	1,291 acres

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE 13.2		Comparability Factor 1.34	
		M	F
Live Births	Total	30	37
	Legitimate	29	37
	Illegitimate	1	-
Stillbirths	Total	-	-
	Legitimate	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	-	-
	Legitimate	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	-	-
	Legitimate	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	-	-
	Legitimate	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-

APPENDIX A TABLE 3

	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Cancer of Lung	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cancer of Prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	6
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	10	5
	F	28	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	4	22

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

Crewkerne Child Welfare Clinic

1. No. of children on register who attended during 1969

Born in 1969	...	...	71
Born in 1968	...	...	69
Born in 1964/67	...	...	121

2. No. of attendances in 1969 by children

Born in 1969	...	...	508
Born in 1968	...	...	119
Born in 1964/67	...	...	121

3. No. of sessions

... 27

4. No. of medical consultations

... 334

5. No. of doctor sessions

... 27

APPENDIX B TABLE 2

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>No. on Roll</u>	<u>No. in- spected</u>	<u>Date of Medical Inspection</u>	<u>Children having milk</u>	<u>Children having dinner</u>	<u>Date of last dental inspection</u>
Crewkerne Ashlands	259	114	23/24/25 4.69	74.90%	95.75%	10.7.69
Crewkerne Grammar	181	27	27.2.69	(Boarders) 48.12%	44.19%	15.11.68
Crewkerne St. Bartholomew's	218	129	20/21/22/ 23.5.69	98.90%	93.59%	12.6.69
Crewkerne Secondary Modern	338	93	17/19/20 2.69	-	71.89%	6.12.68

Infectious Diseases

Measles 20

Analysis of Cases Notified

	Under													
	1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65+	
Measles	1	2	2	2	4	9								

Tuberculosis

Age Group	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25								
25 - 35								
35 - 45								
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65+								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Factories Acts 1937-1959

	No. on Register	No. of inspect- ions	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, enforced by Local Authority.	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	33	39	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	36	42	-	-

Cases in which defects were found	...	...	2
Cases in which defects were remedied	...	...	1
No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 110.		...	54

APPENDIX D TABLE 2

Housing

1. No. of houses included in Clearance Area for which Orders are still to be made.	None
2. No. of houses in Clearance Area which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957.	None
3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	None
4. Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17 - Individual Unfits)	
(i) (a) Houses demolished	4
(b) Houses closed	3
(ii) For other purposes, (road improvements, etc.)	-
5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts etc.) demolished	-
6. No. of houses declared unfit under	
(i) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	None
(ii) Section 72 of the Housing Act, 1969.	None
7. No. of houses made fit during year	22
8. No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	None
9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Acts, 1961 to 1969)	None
10. Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	2
11. Substitution for Closing Order of Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	None
12. Housing Act, 1969 Section 28 General Improvement Areas No. of areas so defined	None
13. <u>Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance 1970-73</u>	

	1970	1971	1972	1973
1. Part a. Houses in areas to be declared	-	-	-	-
III b. Houses to be cleared	-	-	-	-
2. Part Houses likely to be subject to				
II demolition or closing orders	3	6	6	6
14. Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year.				None
15. <u>Rent Acts, 1968 and Housing Act 1969.</u>				
(i) Certificates of Fair Rent				
Certificates issued (if known)				None
(ii) Certificates of Disrepair				
(a) No. of applications received				None
(b) Certificates issued				None
Houses erected during year				
For Slum Clearance				
For other Purposes				
Houses in course of erection				
For Slum Clearance				
For other Purposes				
Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings				
Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one				
Local Authority -	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise -	4	-	1	2

Number of Post-War houses erected from
1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1969.

By Local Authority
398

By Private Enterprise
334

Future Housing Programme (if known) (As requested by Ministry of Housing
& Local Government Circular No. 21/65)

Programme forecast 70-71-72-73	70/71 ... 18
	71/72 ... 10
	72/73 ... 10

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied	(i) Prefabs	None
	(ii) Huts, etc.	None
(b) No. of houses found overcrowded		None

Houses required

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	None
(ii) To abate overcrowding	1
(iii) For other purposes	2
(iv) Applications for Council houses at end of year	
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	7
(b) Applications for old people's dwellings	62
(c) Others	121

Total applications 190

Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.68 (a)	<u>GAINED</u>			<u>LOST</u>				Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.69
	a) Erected	b) Conversion	c) Council houses sold to P.E. during 1969 (b)	Less houses				
				Total (a) + (b)	a) Demolished	b) Closed	c) Sold during 1969	
	A	B	C	A	B	C	D	
L.A. 508		-		508				508
P.E. 1290	4	2		1296	3			1293
Totals 1798	4	2		1804	3			1801

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

Total Number erected to 31.12.69		Number in Course of Erection	
With County Council Aid	Without County Councils Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
30	18	-	-

GRANTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PRIVATE OWNERS

	Up to August 1969				After August, 1969.			
	Received Applic- ations	No. of Dwell- ings	Approved Applic- ations	No. of Dwell- ings	Received Applic- ations	No. of Dwell- ings	Approved Applic- ations	No. of Dwell- ings
1. Improve- ment Grants	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	
2. Standard Grants	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
3. Special Grants	-	-	-	-				

